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HODGSON HALL

(See Frontispiece)

Margaret Telfair Hodgson, widow of William B. Hodgson of Savannah and sister of Mary Telfair, founder of Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences and other charities in Savannah, began in her lifetime the erection of a building on Lot 14, Forsyth Ward, southwest corner of Gaston and Whitaker Streets in Savannah, to be called Hodgson Hall, as a memorial to her scholarly husband, and for the use and benefit of Georgia Historical Society. Before completing it she died leaving her sister, Mary Telfair, as residuary legatee. On June 10, 1874, Miss Telfair, reciting these facts, executed and delivered to the late General Alexander R. Lawton and his successors a trust deed conveying the property for the benefit of the Society and charging the residuary estate of her sister in her own hands with the completion of the building, "in trust nevertheless, to permit the Georgia Historical Society to have the exclusive use, possession, control and management of said building and lot; Provided, said Society will, through its proper officers, accept the same on the following terms and conditions to-wit: That the said building shall be known as, and called, Hodgson Hall; that no public speaking shall be permitted within the walls of said building, except under the auspices or connected with the business of said Georgia Historical Society; that no entertainments or amusements of any kind, which include or involve eating, drinking or smoking, be permitted within the walls of said building; that the building is never to be rented or lent out for any purposes whatsoever; and, further that under the portrait of the said William Brown Hodgson, which is to be hung on the wall of said building, shall be inscribed, in permanent letters, the following words: "In Memoriam, William Brown Hodgson; this building is erected by Margaret Telfair Hodgson, A. D., 1873," or other words of similar import; and that the other conditions, on which the use and con-

trol of the building are committed to the Georgia Historical Society shall also appear conspicuously on the wall of the principal Hall in the building.

Miss Telfair died June 2, 1875. The building was completed by her executors and was dedicated and delivered to the Society on February 14, 1876. For forty-four years Hodgson Hall has been the Society's home and place of meeting, containing its valuable library, manuscripts, portraits and other articles of historical value.

EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF PRESIDENT WILLIAM W. MACKALL, MADE AT THE SEVENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING, HELD FEBRUARY 12TH, 1917.

On the first day of July last, the contract with the City, by which Hodgson Hall, the Society's home, for some twelve or fifteen years past, had been used as a public library, was terminated by mutual consent;—an event which was hailed by the Society with pleasure and gratification, for it had been seen that while this contract had proven of inestimable benefit to the people of Savannah, making it possible, as it did, that they should have the advantages of a public library, it worked to the serious detriment of the welfare of the Society, depriving it of the use of its library building and giving the impression that the Society had, to a more or less extent, retired from active operations.

With the return of Hodgson Hall to the Society, steps were immediately taken to repair and remedy the building, so as to make it in every way suitable for the purposes intended;—and at the same time a committee was appointed to outline and recommend a policy to be adopted by the Society for its future work. The recommendations of this committee, which were duly adopted by the Society, are embodied in the Committee's Report to the Society.

Speaking generally, the purport of these recommendations was two-fold:

1st. The enlargement and systematization of the activities of the Society for usefulness.

2nd. The arousing among the people of the State at large a deeper interest in the work and objects of the Society.

The Society at once set itself to work to accomplish the ends proposed, and we confidently believe that our efforts in this direction have so far proven fruitful of satisfactory results.